

2 0 0 8 S U M M E R E D I T I O N

DUVAL FAMILY ASSN. NEWSLETTER

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Don't Forget

Summer 2009 is just around the corner. So don't forget to plan ahead for your family to join us June 25-27 in Colonial Williamsburg. Please let us know as early as you can so we can reserve enough rooms so you can take advantage of the discounted rate. Come, visit and enjoy. Remember, your ancestors are expecting you.

✧ Cemetery Committee ✧

The DFA Board of Directors has established a Cemetery Committee. Deana Snow has graciously agreed to chair this new activity. It's purpose is to assist DFA Members who wish to restore the grave sites of our ancestors. Any member desiring information on how to go about researching, costing, fund raising and leading such a project can contact her at na hm@aol.com.

CLAIBORNE & ELIZBETH DUVAL

Ken Pfeiffer, Joseph Hays and Deana Snow continue their work on restoring and protecting the graves of Claiborne and Elizabeth Du Val in Simpson County Kentucky. Their work almost hit a dead end when the property owner misunderstood their intention and called the Sheriff to stop them from stealing "her" wrought iron fence that surrounds the grave site. Not to be deterred the three made a personal visit to the owners niece and within a week she had unruffled the feathers and obtained permission to proceed. Joseph continues to research ways to restore and protect the broken markers as well as repairing and stabilizing the wrought iron fence. Ken has obtained commitments from Jesse Pfeiffer, Fred Pfeiffer, Joseph Hays and Joan Thomas to provide funding for the project.

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Don't Forget Your Ancestors

State Laws Are On Our Side

Did you know that most states have laws that protect the graves of our ancestors? This may be the case even if the grave is located on private land nowhere near a cemetery.

In Kentucky it is a Class D Felony to "Violate" a grave. Section 525.115 of Kentucky Cemetery Laws states:

(1) A person is guilty of violating graves when he intentionally:

- (a) Mutilates the graves, monuments, fences, shrubbery, ornaments, grounds, or buildings in or enclosing any cemetery or place of sepulture; or
- (b) Violates the grave of any person by destroying, removing, or damaging the headstone or footstone, or the tomb over the enclosure protecting the grave; or
- (c) Digs into or plows over or removes any ornament, shrubbery, or flower placed upon any grave or lot.

In addition Kentucky courts have held that a land owner must permit the relatives of those buried on their land ingress and egress to and from graves on proper occasions and for proper purposes.

So if you have found the resting place of one of your ancestors, in many cases you have the protection of state law to visit, maintain and even restore the site.

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